

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 06620 010944Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T AMMAN 6620

NODIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS/ PFOR JO SA SY EG

SUBJECT: RIFAI TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: AMMAN 6581

1. POST REGRETS FACT THAT DATE REPORTED REFTEL WAS SEPTEMBER 30 RATHER THAN SEPTEMBER 29. RIFAI TOLD US IT WOULD BE "TUESDAY".

2. RELIEABLE SOURCE VERY CLOSE TO RIFAI TELLS ME HE WILL GO TO SYRIA FOR A FEW HOURS ON OCTOBER 1 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. PURPOSE IS TO DELIVER MESSAGE FROM KING KHALID TO PRESIDENT ASAD ASKING HIM TO COOL OFF HIS OPPOSITION TO SINAI ACCORD AND EGYPT AND TO BEGIN A PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION WITH SADAT. RIFAI REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT PRESENT DIVISIONS OF THE ARAB SIDE OVER THE SINAI ACCORD AND ITS DETRIMENTAL EFFECT AND SUGGESTED KHALID FIRST SEND A MESSAGE TO ASAD TO SEE IF HE WOULD AGREE TO BEGIN A PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION. IF HE IS AGREEABLE THEN KHALID MIGHT APPROACH SADAT.

3. SAUDIS APPARENTLY AGREED AND ASKED RIFAI "WHAT DO WE TELL ASAD?" THEY THEN TOLD RIFAI THAT HE WOULD CARRY THE MESSAGE AND THAT HE COULD SAY ANYTHING APPROPRIATE THAT HE MIGHT TO IN THE INTEREST OF BRINGING THINGS TOGETHER. HE COULD SAY IT HAD ALL COME FROM KHALID.

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4. RIFAI IS DEEPLY AFRAID THAT ASAD WILL NOT BEND AND

THAT HIS MISSION WILL FAIL. SOURCE SAID HE IS THEREFORE BEING VERY QUIET ABOUT HIS TRIPS AND THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR SOURCE IF INFORMATION ABOVE WAS DISCUSSED WITH ANYONE ELSE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT AND ANY OTHER RECIPIENTS PLEASE PROTECT INFORMATION.

5. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO, DAMASCUS AND JIDDA.

6. RIFAI HAS JUST CALLED ME TO SEE HIM THIS MORNING ABOUT UNRWA AND "HIS MISSION". WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY DEVELOP.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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